



ED LACY MINISTRIES, INC.
P.O. BOX 9062
MOBILE, AL 36691



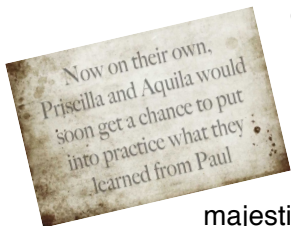
**STRIVING TO DO
 GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY**

EDLACYMINISTRIES@CS.COM (251) 660-8942 (251) 423-3528 WWW.EDLACYMINISTRIES.ORG

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I returned home, from my most recent foreign ministry opportunity in India, I was reminded of the testimony from the ministry of instruction, which Apollos received in Acts 18. The scripture declares, 'Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.' Apollos was a passionate, persuasive and powerful proclaimer of the truths that he had come to know. The problem was that there were many holes in his evangelistic message. For even though he had trusted in 'the message of repentance' that John the Baptist had previously preached, and he had placed his confidence in the truth that Messiah was coming, but he had not yet come to know the full spectrum of the saving truths concerning 'the Person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ!' Consequently, he could not yet declare the breadth of the glorious provision of God the Son in His sinless life, His substitutionary death and His triumphant resurrection and ascension. There was much that was missing in his sincere and passionate evangelistic proclamation. He was well instructed in the 'message', as far as John's ministry could carry him; but no further. His message was both powerful and accurate, concerning the truth of "preparing the way of the Lord"; but he was lacking the full spectrum of the New Testament truths concerning 'the magnificent message of the Lord Jesus Christ!'



When Aquila and Priscilla heard him preaching so powerfully and eloquently in the synagogue, they were immediately struck with the reality that, as Spurgeon states, "Apollos had not yet reached the full chord in the blessed music of the Gospel". Certainly, he must have already heard of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. However, he had not entered into the majestic meanings of those soul-saving truths. Aquila and Priscilla knew that his message was defective, in relation to the full-orbed knowledge of 'who Jesus Christ is and what He had accomplished'. Of course, both Aquila and Priscilla were personally aware that it was only because of the illuminating grace of God and the instruction of Paul, that they had come to entered into the magnificent realities of the Gospel. So they both knew that they were personally responsible to give themselves to further instruct this man of God. So when they heard the 'missing gaps' in Apollos message, "they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately". You can be absolutely certain that they communicated a clear, careful and concise presentation of both the Person and the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ. They graciously expounded and explained the whole counsel of the message of salvation; the means of salvation, as well as, the vital doctrines concerning God the Son.

Furthermore, as we closely observe this message, we must also recognize the sweet humility and sincere teachability in the heart and life of Apollos. You must remember that Apollos had already been heralded as a man who was mighty in the scriptures and eloquent in his knowledge of the Old Testament. Then along comes this tentmaker and his wife, who began to testify to him that he had some serious defects and deficiencies in his preaching! But, instead of welling up in arrogance and pride, this godly man demonstrated a receptive mind, a humble heart and a pliable will. He was opened to doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction! And what was the manifest fruit of this divine appointment? *Continued*

Verses 27b-28 declare that, 'Apollos greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that JESUS IS THE CHRIST'.

Dear brothers and sisters, I am personally reminded that the Lord Jesus has not only given pastors, as a gift to the church; He has also given evangelists for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry! My Lord has called me, to preach the Gospel to lost sinners. However, He has also called and prepared me to 'teach foreign pastors, church planters and spiritual leaders' in 20 various nations, all over this planet! I can testify with Apollos, that our Lord has graciously equipped me, through the godly men that He has placed in my life through the years. Consequently, I know that just like Aquila and Priscilla, I am especially responsible to give myself to equip other spiritual leaders to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover, dear friends, each one of you have been co-laborers with us on this journey, holding us up through your intercessory prayers and your faithful support of this ministry.

A TREASURED TEACHABILITY IN THE INDIAN PASTORS AND CHURCH PLANTERS!

When the Lord redeemed my precious wife; and then two years later saved my soul, He placed us both under the ministry of Dr. Ron Herrod, at First Baptist Kenner, LA. At that time, I would have never imagined that, over 36 years later, I would be teaching 'Christ-centered Evangelism' as part of his annual Bible Institute in India. I am so grateful for this ongoing opportunity! The day before I began to teach this group of hungry and humble pastors, a newspaper article was published in the 'Indian state paper', declaring the following words, "We must be determined to wipe out this religious sect, (born again evangelical Christians and churches), from our state and our nation!" Recently, many Indian pastors have been persecuted; some martyred; and many churches have been destroyed within various states of this dark nation. The stated supreme ambition of the political leaders of that nation is to "completely ban" Christianity by 2025. And yet, like Apollos, even though these pastors and church planters have been willing to be involved in personal sacrifice to carry out their evangelistic ministry, both their evangelistic message and their outreach methods have gradually strayed away from the God's instruction manual (The Word of God)! Evangelical leaders in India have adopted many 'humanly invented' techniques and tactics, which have been contrived by evangelical leaders and organizations in America; and have been exported to those Indian pastors and church planters. They have adopted gimmicks and gadgets that have not been ordained by the Lord. And yet, the tragic truth is that many international pastors and leaders assume that if something has come from America, (in this case the American evangelical church), then it must be good and right. They have also embraced and employed an evangelistic message that is not centered on 'the Person, the work and the terms of the Lord Jesus Christ'. On the contrary, their evangelistic message has been 'heaven-centered' in its emphasis. And yet, upon a careful study of the evangelistic presentations in the 'Book of Acts', you will discover that heaven is never mentioned in those Gospel proclamations. The original disciples **proclaimed Jesus** and **prosecuted the sinner**. We too have been commanded by the Lord to witness about a Person; not a place! I am saying that all of these men, whom I had the privilege of teaching, were in desperate need of repentance in relationship to both the message which they proclaimed and the methods which they were employing. And this is precisely what the Spirit of God worked in their hearts and minds! Even though they had some missing holes in their evangelistic message and methods, every one of them manifested the same attitude as that of Apollos, by demonstrating a teachability and spiritual humility. I sensed no evidence of a prideful attitude welling up among them. Furthermore, I sensed no refusal to admit their past errors, as the Spirit of God called them away from the 'flesh-concocted methods and a heaven-centered message'; and called them to come into line with God's ordained message and means to carry out His great mission. There was an unusual attitude of openness to instruction; and a willingness to repent and to return to doing "God's work; God's way; with God's message; for God's glory"!

A beautiful example, of what I am attempting to convey, can be illustrated in the testimony of an older pastor who sat directly in front of me throughout the entire week! Even though he had been a pastor for 31 years, he made this heartfelt confession of genuine repentance, saying, "**When I began in the ministry, I had the opportunity to be the interpreter for a very famous American evangelist, who preached to large crusades in my home state. As a young pastor, I decided to copy both 'the main theme of his evangelistic message and the humanly invented methods that he employed'. I have been carrying out my evangelism in this way for over three decades! However, through this ministry-transforming week of teaching, (continued)**

I have been confronted with the truth that both my message and methods have been largely unbiblical; and they have not been pleasing to my Lord. Bro. Ed, I brought nine men, (whom I have personally trained), with me to this institute. In light of the astounding truths that we have come to understand this week, all of us have repented of our 'heaven-centered message and our man-concocted tactics'! All of us have decided that we must return to our home churches and repent before our congregations. We have all committed to jettison those 'humanly-invented techniques and tactics', which have been nothing but the arm of the flesh. We have also committed to repent of 'focusing our evangelistic message on heaven'. And we must all return to God's ordained 'Christ-centered message'. We are totally committed to proclaiming 'the Person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and prosecuting sinners. We have thoroughly resolved that we are only going to employ God's ordained means to carry out God's mission. As I have sat under every session of this teaching, I have actually felt like there were only three people in this room (the Lord Jesus; you and myself)! My life has been radically changed. Both my evangelism and my ministry have been completely transformed. And we have all vowed that, 'from this day forward, we are going to do God's work; using God's ordained message and methods; and for God's glory alone!' "

THE PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF A FORMER MUSLIM WHO IS NOW AN EVANGELICAL PASTOR

The following testimony is from one of the other pastors, who was in attendance at the institute. He is a former Muslim, who was converted to the Lord Jesus Christ by simply reading the New Testament. He has been in the evangelical ministry for 14 years. Read his personal testimony of what the Spirit of God wrought in his life during this week. **"Thank you for all of your teaching to the many pastors and church planters who attended your recent teaching in India. I am totally speechless, while writing this letter to you. For I have no adequate words that can truly express my thanks for the truths that I have heard. The Lord created an exciting environment of hungry enthusiasm for learning His word. This teaching produced an insatiable appetite in all of us, to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord, in this vital matter of doing evangelism God's way! Our Lord employed these essential truths to make many corrections in my own evangelistic message, methods and motives. I am sure that this will result in a mighty extension of God's kingdom in India. I have been in the ministry for almost 14 years, teaching and preaching the word of God. But now, I understand that there have been a number of errors that have been contaminating both my life and my evangelistic ministry. But I truly believe that God has appointed the right person to come to me, at precisely the right time. This is why I am so grateful to God that He sent you to our nation of India. Sir, our Lord and God has used you to turn my life and my evangelistic ministry from 'error' to 'example'.**

Sir, I must confess that when I began to attend your first class on the first day, I was really offended. I thought, 'I will prove this man to be wrong, when he gives me an opportunity to ask the questions, later on in the week.' But as I continued to listen to your teaching, I came to the personal realization that I could not prove you wrong. For all of your teachings were totally founded upon the sound doctrine of the scriptures. Everyone of my bundle of questions were totally cleared up. The Holy Spirit corrected me, concerning a multitude of errors in my evangelistic ministry. I discovered that both my evangelistic message and my methods were all 'man-centered evangelism'. Consequently, I was operating my evangelism in many grave errors. Oh, but now I understand that evangelism should be 'Christ-centered' in its message and totally biblical in its methods. Bro. Ed, I can honestly testify that I have been turned from 'many errors' to the truth of God's instruction manual. All that I can say is, 'thank you sir, for bringing the clear light into the blur of my evangelism'. In spite of your health issues, you still took on the challenge to come to India and teach all of us. It was a tremendous expression of God's love toward all of us. I assure you that your pain will not go to waste. I will give my best to teach 'Christ-centered Evangelism.' My focus is now to produce an accurate 'Hindi translation audio' of the entire teaching of 'Christ centered Evangelism'. Furthermore, I am committed to distribute these copies throughout the entirety of the northern part of India, through CDs and social media. Please keep me in your prayers. I am determined, by God's grace, that my people will hear these life-transforming truths!"

Oh dear brothers and sisters, your prayers and support are a vital part of these precious opportunities. The "Christ-centered Evangelism" workbook has now been translated into its 4th Indian language. Please pray for the new opportunities that God is giving to teach this study in new states within India. Because of my health issues of late, my dear brother Raj, (whom I had the opportunity to train in Christ-centered Evangelism), taught this same study in Siliguri, in my stead, at the 2nd institute. He has sent a number of testimonies of the Lord's working in pastors' lives during that week! I will have to share some of those in the next newsletter.

REDEEMED TO WORSHIP CONFERENCE IN BATON ROUGE

I want to share just one of the many opportunities of teaching in our own country, since our last newsletter. I was recently given the blessed privilege to teach the new and revised version of the study workbook entitled 'Redeemed to Worship'. It was so amazing to see the church absolutely packed, with both the members and many visitors, for two '45 minute' sessions each evening! You can know that 'God's answered your prayers' for this conference, through the personal testimony of the week from the heart of this precious pastor. Pastor Philip Guay of Providence Baptist writes, " ' **The Redeemed to Worship' series could not have come at better time; both in the life of our church and in my own personal life as well. Bro. Ed took us on a guided tour, (all totally rooted in Scripture), of what it means for God's people to 'truly and acceptably worship Him'. God graced Bro. Ed with a special unction to preach the Word, throughout the entirety of those 11 sessions! The manifest evidence of the special presence of the Holy Spirit was keenly sensed by all. Many of both our congregation and visitors were under deep conviction and correction, as the biblical standard of a 'life of authentic and acceptable worship' was held high before us. The Spirit empowered my dear brother Ed in such a way, that the Word of God thundered from our pulpit each and every session! All of our people and the many visitors responded with a powerful demonstration of the love and appreciation for this servant of God. We look forward to the time when Bro. Ed can return to us, to take us through another one of his workbook series.**"

PLEASE BEGIN TO PRAY FOR KENYA CONFERENCE

Dear brothers and sisters, we cherish your intercessory prayers for the many upcoming opportunities to evangelize the lost and edify the saints of God. I have just completed a new workbook entitled 'The Life That Glorifies God'. It is an exposition of John 15:1-9, which I will have the privilege to teach to over 600 pastors in Kenya, God willing. It is presently being translated into Swahili! Dianne and I are so very grateful for your love, your intercession and your financial support of the ministry, which our Lord has graced to us. Our prayer for you is that, "you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing him and being fruitful unto every good work". Thank you precious friends for being co-laborers with us. Please know of our heartfelt love and gratitude.

Also, please pray for the many hurricane victims. Some of our dear friends and co-laborers have been affected by these storms. Also, we are excited and praying for the soon arrival of our new grandbaby in just a few weeks.

Your servant for Jesus' sake

Ed Lacy

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

SEPT. 17RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH - DENHAM SPRINGS, LA

SEPT. 20-22INDUSTRIAL ELECTROPLATING - GASTONIA, NC

OCT. 6-8FIRST BAPTIST - ROOSEVELT, TX

OCT. 15-19QUITMAN BAPTIST - QUITMAN LA

OCT. 29-NOV.2LIBERTY BAPTIST - THOMASVILLE, AL

NOVEMBER 12-17NOLA BAPTIST - BROOKHAVEN, MS

DECEMBER 1-11ANNUAL PASTORS CONFERENCE - KITALE, KENYA